will be taken up as soon as the working programme in respect of other roads is completed. That was settled at a conference at which the representatives of the people of Shertallai including last year's Assembly member were present and it was in complete agreement that the whole thing was settled upon. You take a diametrically opposite course. I am not sure whether you represent the wishes of the people of Shertallai as a whole or whether the old member did, or whether the representatives of the people who attended the last conference represented them. The thing is, as they are, I must accept what has been decided at the peoples' conference.

You also advocated with considerable vehemence and eloquence the need for endeavouring to convince Government of Shertallai's requirements in communications, or to use your own words " Shertallai is completely rejected and dejected ". I am very very grieved to hear that that is so. I think I have heard of Shertallai once or twice. I may be mistaken now that you have assured us that Shertallai is " completely rejected and dejected ". I have no doubt that in the fulness of time some attempt may be made to remove some of that dejection and possibly to correct some of the rejections.

41. Means of communication in the Kottayam taluk.

MR. CHACKO JOHN (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group I*) dealt with the following needs of the Kottayam taluk in the matter of means of communication :—

(1) Illikkal-Kanjiram road. It was absolutely necessary, particularly in the interests of agriculture, that a road should be opened from the Illikkal junction to Kanjiram. The Illikkal junction was the place where the Illikkal road and the Thazhatangadi road met ; it was also the starting-point of the Kottayam-Kumarakom road. As for Kanjiram, it was the place where the Puthanthodu crossed the Meenachil river. Both these places were thus important stations. For want of a road between the two places, the people of the neighbouring Velur, Kilirur and Thiruvarppu *karas* were suffering great inconvenience. They had no proper means of communication by which they could go to the courts and public institutions in the Kottayam town. It was also remarkable that there were two churches and a temple in the locality. For want of easy approaches to these institutions, the people of the locality were put to untold hardship. The length of the proposed road would be but one mile and it should be sanctioned by Government.

(2) Pulinakal-Parochal road. This road should be extended up to Kanjiram. At present the road had its terminus at Parochal, a by no means important place. The utility of the road would be considerably enhanced if it was extended along the banks of the Puthanthodu to Kanjiram on the Meenachil river. The people of the locality had already done some earth work along the banks of the Puthanthodu which might be completed by Government and a good road opened.

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(3) Kudayanpadi-Kallumkathara road. Representations had been made in the Assembly about this very urgent road in 1096 and in 1103, and Government had agreed to investigate the matter. But no action had yet been taken. The road should be investigated soon.

(4) Thiruvarppu-Olessa road. Thiruvarppu and Chengalam were like the Kuttanad regions entirely wanting in land communications. A road should be opened through these places to Olessa.

(5) Mavelithodu. A canal should be opened from about a furlong to the south of the Illikkal bridge to Mavelikuzhi, about half a mile to the west. The canal would meet the Kumarakam canal at Mavelikuzhi.

(6) Chunkam bridge. A cartable bridge should be built across the Meenachil river at Chunkam. There was only a ferry there at the present time In the rainy season much difficulty was experienced in crossing this ferry. The construction of the bridge would be of considerable use to the people of Ayimanam, Arppukara, Nindur, Kaippuzha and other places.

(7) Kumarakam market bridge. A bridge should be constructed across the Kumarakam canal.

(8) Pulinakal-Kallupurakal connection road. In accordance with a representation of Mr. E. N. Eipe, member, Kottayam taluk, at the 24th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, Government had sanctioned the opening of this road; but the work was making very slow progress. Government should make immediate arrangements for the construction of the road being speeded up and the work being completed before the next rainy season.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko John, I shall take up each point that you have raised here. One is the Velur-Pulinakal road. An estimate of this work has already been sanctioned and a declaration for the acquisition of lands has been published, and, as a matter of fact the work is in progress.

Another point is the extension of the Illikkal road to Kanjiram. If your people are prepared to surrender 30 feet width of land free of all cost, the Government will be prepared to undertake this extension.

Next we come to the extension of the Pulinakal-Parochal road to Kanjiram. So far the people have done nothing at all except that they have had a small quantity of earth removed, and nothing else has been done. If the people are prepared to surrender free of all cost to Government land to the width of 40 feet the question of constructing the extension will be considered. Until then we cannot contemplate it.

Then you have the opening of a road from Kudayanpadi to Kallumkathra. Here too, the question of constructing this road can only be considered if the necessary lands are surrendered free of all cost.

The next is the opening of a road from Thiruvarpu to Olessa *via* Chengalam. This is comparatively an expensive road and it is only a

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cross road. A rough estimate puts it at Rs. 6,000 any any question of constructing it should stand over till more important and urgent roads are constructed.

As regards the connection of the Maveli canal with the Minachil river, the Chief Engineer is investigating the matter.

For the construction of a bridge over the Minachil river, the estimate that has been prepared is now under consideration.

A bridge over the market canal at Kumarakam is hardly necessary at the present moment until traffic develops.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-15 P. M.

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